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Group Therapy - Chemical Abstracts: Semi-Annual Volumes

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Group Therapy — Chemical Abstracts — Semi-Annual Volumes

Column Editor, **Rosann Bazirjian** (Florida State University)

Hey y'all out there! Do you have any gripes? Come to your therapist! Try <rbazirji@mailers.fsu.edu> or FAX 904-644-5170.

GRIBE: (Submitted by **Anonymous**):

We recently finished getting all of the five-year cumulative indexes for **Chemical Abstracts** and binding them. Now we would like to know what other libraries are doing with the semi-annual index volumes. Are you selling them, donating them, or throwing them out? Any suggestions would be helpful.

RESPONSE: (Submitted by **Sheri Edwards**, Head, Science & Technology Library, University of Akron):

The University of Akron has the full run of **Chemical Abstracts (CA)** dating from 1977, housed in the Science & Technology Library. With our annual subscription to **CA**, we receive the **CA** volume indexes (author, patent, general subject, chemical substance, and formula) twice a year, each providing reference to six months of **CA**. Every five years, we purchase, under a separate subscription, the **Collective Index**. Each **Collective Index (CI)** covers five years of **Chemical Abstracts'** volume indexes. The latest **Collective Index**, the 13th **CI**, covers the **CA** in-

dexes from 1992-1996.

We immediately withdraw the semi-annual volume indexes as soon as they are fully replaced by the **Collective Index**. Withdrawing the semi-annual indexes not only saves valuable space, but reduces confusion among our users. The size of the complete set of **CA** is enormous, but when it contains several hundred semi-annual indexes, it becomes nearly unusable. Removing the semi-annual indexes eliminates the confusion as to whether it is necessary to search both the collective index and individual semi-annual indexes. Furthermore, we have found that our patrons are simply not interested in searching the chemical literature six months at a time. Having the **Collective Indexes** makes our users more willing to search the printed version of **CA**. Therefore, by removing the semi-annual indexes from the shelves, we feel that we are promoting the most efficient use of **CA**.

The question of whether to keep the semi-annual indexes along with the **Collective Indexes** has been discussed at length

on the **Chemical Information Sources Discussion List**. Some librarians are reluctant to withdraw the semi-annual indexes for fear that a volume of the **Collective Index** may temporarily "disappear" from the shelf, leaving their users without access to the literature. As a result, some libraries keep the semi-annual indexes as back up. At the **University of Akron**, we have not experienced problems with missing volumes. Nor do we have space to even consider saving them as back up. Besides, in the event that a volume does disappear, there are alternate ways to find the information, including the use of **CAS Online** and **SciFinder Scholar**, a special version of the **SciFinder** desktop research tool tailored to the needs of the academic community.

Others have expressed concern that some unique indices might be lost or there may be gaps in coverage with the **Collective Index**. However, according to **Barbara Zahm** at **Chemical Abstracts Services**, the **CA Collective Indexes** are simply compilations of the contents of the corresponding ten individual volume indexes. All chemical substances and concepts indexed in the individual six-month indexes are represented in the **Collective Index**.

During the



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collective index processing, registry numbers are updated or corrected. In short, the CI offers access to the same full range of information that can be found in the ten six-month indexes, with updates and corrections (See CHMINF-1@listserv.indiana.edu/ChemAbstractsIndices. June 29, 1993).

For the reasons given above the University of Akron has chosen to withdraw the indexes once the complete set of the Collective Index has arrived. In fact, if responses from the **Chemical Information Discussion List** are any indication, most libraries withdraw them. However, caution must be taken when removing the items to be sure that the full set has arrived. Some libraries have mistakenly withdrawn the semi-annual pieces before the entire set arrives, leaving them short-handed.

After several attempts to find an alternative "home" for the semi-annual indexes, we now routinely discard them in the trash. Unfortunately, since we bind all volume indexes, except for the fifth year pieces, recycling them is not an option. As an alternative to discarding them, libraries may want to consider donating them to libraries in third world countries. The **American Chemical Society** has a service entitled **Project Bookshare** which is charged with collecting chemistry textbooks and journals from donors and making these materials available to libraries in selected small U.S. colleges and to university libraries in developing countries. They will accept volumes of CA, but all donations must be approved before shipment. Also, the donor must assume shipping charges. (For information about **Project Bookshare**, see <http://www.acs.org/memgen/intlactv/prhome.htm>).

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Serbia, South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands, Turks & Caicos Islands, Vojvodina, Wallis & Futuna, and Western Sahara. This puts the final tally at 209 for countries and major principalities, and 235 for countries and all principalities.

The Answers to all the Questions

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to the three variations of the question, "How many countries are there in the world?" can be answered in one of three ways:

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So, that answers the original question and its three possible variations. 

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On the Road — Woman with the Striped Dress On...

A glimpse at "Life in the Trenches" — "On the road again/ Just can't wait to get on the road again..."

Column Editor, **Don Jaeger** (Alfred Jaeger, Inc.) <don@ajaeger.com>

*This story was told by **Edna Laughrey** from **Aux Amateurs De Livres**. Now that the travel season is in full swing, I am looking forward to receiving stories from those commercial reps who have been pounding the pavement these last few months. Surely, some of you have encountered some humorous situations that we can all share. Now for Edna's adventure. — DJ*

Woman with the Striped Dress On ... by Edna Laughrey

Participating in the **American Library Association** Conventions has been a major focus of my professional life. I became an active member of ALA within the first year of getting my MLS from the University of Michigan in 1969. Over the years I have encountered several unique experiences as a part of the conference circuit, and it is the first major snafu that I still chuckle about. At that time I was Head of Acquisitions at the **University of Michigan Library** and attending the **Business of Acquisitions Pre-Conference** in Chicago.

In the early evening of the day prior to the pre-conference, I checked into the hotel and found that my roommate, **Harriet Rubeldela**, Head of Acquisitions at the **University of Colorado at Boulder**, was already in the room and not feeling well. She thought she just needed food to settle the feeling of nausea. I quickly unpacked, put my clothes on hangers, and flung the hangers on the rod in the closet.

We soon headed off for food and to search for colleagues who were also staying in the hotel. As we ate, Harriet began to feel better and several other planning committee friends and speakers joined us in the restaurant. Upon

completion of our meal, the group of about eight decided to adjourn to the bar, where we could continue our discussions. Harriet and I did not return to our room until very late, and we immediately went to bed feeling confident about the next few days.

In the morning, we awoke with high hopes about the pre-conference we had helped plan. Our late night discussions had proven that everyone was excited about the topic and that the speakers and discussion leaders were well-prepared.

As I began to prepare for the day, I went to the closet, looked at my dresses and carefully selected the one I would wear on that first day. At this point I encountered a major disaster! As I pulled the dress from the hanger, I discovered that the dress seemed to stick to the wall. I gingerly tugged on the pieces of my dress that would not come loose from the wall and wondered why I was having this strange problem. When I finally got the dress out of the closet, I examined it and found a white streak on the arm and skirt of the dress.

I gently removed another dress from the closet and saw that it too was stuck to the wall. As I removed each dress from the closet, I found, to my horror, that each one was similarly stuck to the wall and had a white stripe on the arm and skirt.


Harriet selected her clothing and had no problem. Only my half of the closet had a sticky substance on the back wall. It almost appeared that the closet had been painted, but who paints half the back wall of the closet? Was this related to Harriet's feeling of nausea the day before? If the issue was a recently painted closet, why would a major hotel rent a room with a freshly painted closet? The

more Harriet and I talked, the stranger the situation seemed to be.

Wearing a lesser stained dress, I carried the most obviously soiled ones to the hotel manager's office. Instead of attending the early sessions of the pre-conference, I spent the next hour with the hotel management staff. They could not believe they had done anything to cause the stains on my dresses. First, the manager, and then the rest of the staff who joined us, flatly refused to believe my story. I insisted they come to the room and look at the wall. As they examined the wall, they accused me of doing something to the wall to make it "tacky." By then I was frustrated and getting angry! Sure enough, the work orders showed that the closet had been painted. They said they would send the dresses to the cleaners, and that the dresses would be back at the hotel that evening.

I went to the pre-conference in my slightly soiled garment, wondering what people would ask about the stains. No one asked.

The cleaners could not remove the stains, because the chemicals would have burned holes in the cloth. There was no time for new clothing, so I spent the entire week wearing clothing with a white stripe on the right side. Can you imagine the humiliation?

Perhaps I should feel content in knowing the stripe was not down the middle of my back! 




Rumors

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Noble's online venture, Barnesandnoble.com, for \$200 million. For the complete story see <http://interactive.wsj.com/articles/>.

This just out as we go to press. A Federal judge in California has ruled that publishers of journals and other collective works do not own the rights to sell the individual articles. The ruling on authors' rights, by U.S. District Judge Fern M. Smith, came in a copyright-infringement case brought in October 1997 by four freelance writers against **UnCover**. Hmmm. This could turn academe on its ear if the ruling holds. It has been appealed. In the meantime, see the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, Monday, October 19, 1998, "Copyright Ruling Could Strengthen Authors' Control Over Writings, Observers Say," by **Goldie Blumenstyk**.

Just heard from **Corrie Marsh** who is now back at **Endeavor**! She will be at the **Charleston Conference**! Look for her.

Whew! That's all the rumors for now. More in December! Happy Thanksgiving! 

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Similarly, the **University of Buffalo Libraries Health Science Library** maintains a list of active donation programs for books and journals on their Web site at <http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries>. Another option is to make the indexes available at another location on campus, thus allowing more users access to the database at the same time.

In short, to save space and to avoid confusion among our users, and because we can think of no compelling reason to keep them, we discard the semi-annual volumes of **CA** after the **Collective Index** arrives. However, the library has just recently subscribed to **SciFinder Scholar**. In order to pay for **SciFinder Scholar** in the future, we are considering not purchasing the 14th **Collective Index**. At that point, deciding what to do with the semi-annual pieces will no longer be an issue. 